(c) and (d) There is no proposal to restrict the production for exports of cigars.

US Restrictions on Import of Tobacco Products

1778. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that USA has imposed restrictions on the import of cigars, tobacco and other tobacco products from India; and

(b) if so, the details of such restriction: on exports from India to USA ?

IHE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) ; (a) and (b) A minimum domestic content requirement of 75% was prescribed in US legislation governing cigarette production in USA, in 1993.

Export of Plantation Crops

1779. DR. B. B. DUTTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what were the targets set for export of plantation crops during the last three years;

(b) how far these targets have been achieved ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to boost export of plantation crop ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) COFFEE targets fixed for export of coffee during the last three years were as follows :

Ye'r	Quant[1];)'(tonnes)	Valie (Rs./crores)
1991-92	120,000	400
1992-93	120,000	400
19S3-94	i: 0,000	460

The actual experts of coffee, during the 'as[1], three years were as follows :

Year	Quantity (tonnes)	Value (Rs./crores)
1991-92	111.452	349.01
'-992-93	113.602	381.31
1993-94	135.608	581.79

In order to boost export of coffee, in *1994* a Free Sale Quota (FSQ) up to 50% of production has been granted to the coffee growers under which the producer can sell his produce both in domestic and export market. The Coffee Board hrs also combined the domestic and export auctions so that export requirements can be adequately met.

TEA : The target set for export of tea during hte last three years vis-a-vis the achievements thereof are as foliows :

Quantity (M. Kgs.)
Value (Rs./crores)

Year	Targets		Achievements	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1991-92	210	1200	216.45	1212.27
1992-93	210	1200	180.69	1058.70
1993-94	210	1200	*161.17	*1080.10

*Estimated.

In order to step up export of Indian tea discussions have been held with Russian authorities requesting them to source their requirements of tea from India under debt repayment route. According to the information available, Russian authorities have allocated around US $ 50 million to various importing organisations in that country for import of Indian tea. Efforts are on to sort out bottle-necks in export of tea to Iran.

Besides these, other steps which are being taken to boost exports of tea include promotional campaigns through Tea Board's offices abroad. It consists of (i) participation in trade fairs/exhibitions, (ii) media campaign to increase consumer awareness towards various uniqua characteristics of Indian tea, (iti) media campaign to popularise Indian tea through Tea Board marketing symbol, and (iv) support to various foreign brands containing Indian tea. A part of the expenditure incurred by importers for promotional campaigns is met from tea Board budget.

Tea Board have also undertaken Darjeeling and Assam logo campaign in U. K. to popularise classic Indian teas. Recently the brand promotion scheme has been revived to give a boost to exports of value added teas.

RUBBER:

No targets were fixed for export of Natural Rubber during the last three years as it is not a regular item of export. However, under the current import-export Policy, export of Natural Rubber is allowed :

Rubber exported during the last three years is as under :—

Year	Quantity
1991-92	5,334 MT
1992-93	5,999MT
1993-94	186 MT

Targets for Growth of Exports and Imports

1780. DR. B. B. DUTTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the targets set for growth of ex ports and imports during the last three years;

(b) how far these have been realised ;

(c) tlie targets set for the growth of exports dining the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(d) how far the present trends in ihe growth of exports promise to achieve the targets fixed for the Eighth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRl PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Export targets and perfor mance of exports during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 are eiven below :

Year	(US $ million) Export Targts	Value of Exports
1991-92	—	17865
1992-93	20132	18537
1993-94	22138	22238

(No target was set in 1991-92 due to uncerlaintiees in global trading environment, cllapse of the erstwhile Soviet Union and the time lag for the far reaching reforms initiated since July, 91 to have a real impact on exports). No targets are set for imports, which arc made as per the requirements of the economy.

(c) The Eighth Plan (92—97) envisages an export target of 13.6% per annum in volume terms (i.e. at 1991-92 prices) durine the Plan period. Exports during 1996-97 are projected at US $ 33548 million (at 1991-92 prices and exchange rates).

(d) .It is, expected that with the present trend and the e.\port-friendly environment prevailing in the economy, the export target set for the. Eighth Plan will be achieved.

Compositional Shift in India's Exports

1781. DR. B. B. DUTTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been compositional shift in India's exports ;

(b) if so, the details threreof ; and

(c) how far this change has benefited India's exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) It is India's endavour to diversify its export basket, both in terms of commodity and country coverage. The percentage share in total exports of non-traditional product groups of Readymade Garments, Processed Food, Gems and Jewellery, Chemicals and Engineering goods have registered an increase over the last few years.

Boosting Indian Exports in European Union Countries

1782. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : WUl the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Exports will receive a boost in the European Union Countries;

(b) if so, the products proposed to be exported to those countries;

(c) what special arrangements have been made with EU Countries for boost ing our exports ; and

(d) what Ls the estimated volume of trade with the EU Countries in the year 1995-96 in terms of dollar, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (d) Exports to the countries of the European Union have been growing at an average rate of 8.96% in dollar terms since 1990-91. It may, however, be too early to estimate the volume of trade to these countries in 1995-96.

Indian exports to the European Union include traditional items such as textiles, gems and jewellery, leather/jute products, garments and chemicals. Other areas with export potentials are engineering goods, marine products, garments, spoils goods, agro-products, floriculture and granites/ stones.

Bilateral economic relations are periodically reviewed with the European